

**From:** Rita Sudman  
**Sent:** Fri 3/22/2013 9:10:04 PM  
**Subject:** Join Rita on the Central Valley Tour, April 17-19, 2013

Hi: I'm contacting you today to ask you to join me on the Foundation's Central Valley Tour, April 17-19. People often tell me that they want to go on one of our tours "one of these days." Well, one of these days is here! I hope you will join me on this year's Central Valley Tour viewing and discussing ESA issues and surface and groundwater in the Valley. I'm on the tour this year because of the importance of the area to current water decisions this year. For the first time in several years, we will begin and end the tour in Sacramento.

*Basically the tour travels down the west side and returns on the east side of the Valley. You will never see all these sites in such a short time and hear comprehensive discussions of the issues other than on a Water Education Foundation Tour. So please join me on an interesting – and enjoyable – trip to learn the issues and see the sites. The Foundation only puts on this tour once a year. Don't miss it! Take a look at the itinerary and [click here](#) visit our website and register securely online.*

## **CENTRAL VALLEY TOUR - DRAFT ITINERARY**

**April 17-19, 2013**

**Sponsored by: Water Education Foundation**

**Resource speakers:** *Douglas DeFlitch, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

*Carl Hauge, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources*

*René Henery, California Science Coordinator/SJR TAC Member, Trout Unlimited*

**Tour staff:** *Renée Cashmere, Tour Director, Water Education Foundation*

*Rita Sudman, Executive Director, Water Education Foundation*

### **DAY 1: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 – Sacramento to Coalinga**

Introduction to San Joaquin Valley: the Delta connection; BDCP connection to Valley; state and federal water systems, wetlands and refuges, groundwater overdraft, West side farming, land retirement and agricultural drainage.

**7:30 a.m. CHECK-IN**, Sacramento International Airport, Special Events parking, Terminal B

**8:00 a.m. DEPART** for San Luis Reservoir

Discuss water transfers, water storage, increased pumping, BDCP, coordinated operations.

**En Route:** Tour introduction

**10:15 a.m. ARRIVE** San Luis Reservoir Romero Visitors Center

Discuss off-stream storage projects. San Luis & Delta Mendota Canals, western San Joaquin Valley irrigation supply; increased pumping, SWP- CVP storage

*Ara Azhderian, Water Policy Administrator, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (invited)*

**10:45 a.m. DEPART** for San Luis National Wildlife Refuge

**En Route:** Discuss reason for location for wildlife refuge. Discuss history of wetlands in Central Valley, Pacific flyway. Grasslands Drainage Project. Kesterson Reservoir. The salmon story and relationship to the Restoration Program.

*Douglas DeFlicht, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

*René Henery, California Science Coordinator/SJR TAC Member, Trout Unlimited*

*Carl Hauge, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources*

**11:25 a.m. ARRIVE** San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. Divide group to take nature walk or explore the new visitor center.

Discuss agricultural drainage, Salt and Mud Sloughs and drainage options, need for dependable, high-quality water supply for environment.

*Karl Stromayer, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

*Dennis Woolington, Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

**12:00 p.m. DEPART** for lunch at Delta Farms in Los Banos.

**En Route:** CVP water for environmental use (CVP Improvement Act). Drainage and land retirement. Reclamation contracts.

*Douglas DeFlicht, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

Geologic setting and interaction of surface and groundwater: West San Joaquin

Valley salinity problems, San Luis Drain, Endangered Species Act requirements.

*Carl Hauge, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources*

**12:30 p.m. ARRIVE** Delta Farms. Discuss exchange contractors' water rights. San Joaquin River issues. San Joaquin River flood flows.

## **LUNCH**

*Steve Chedester, Executive Director, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority*

*Chris White, General Manager, Central California Irrigation District*

*Chase Hurley, General Manager, San Luis Canal Company/Henry Miller Reclamation*

**1:30 p.m. DEPART** for Panoche Water District farms

**En Route:** Discuss Grasslands Bypass Project, drain water reuse, sub-surface drip irrigation. Grants for Central Valley farmers to install water conservation and drainage reduction projects.

*Dennis Falaschi, General Manager, Panoche Water District*

**2:00 p.m. ARRIVE** Panoche Water District

Discuss subsurface drainage, discharge reduction strategies, drip irrigation.

*Dennis Falaschi, General Manager, Panoche Water District*

**2:45 p.m. DEPART** for Mendota Pool, confluence of Delta-Mendota Canal and San Joaquin River.

**En Route:** Discuss groundwater banking in Madera County; confluence of Delta-Mendota Canal and San Joaquin River; contract renewals.

**3:15 p.m. ARRIVE** Mendota Pool, confluence of Delta-Mendota Canal, San Joaquin River and Fresno Slough (North Fork-Kings River), and the points of diversion for several Exchange Contractors and Westlands Water District canals, San Joaquin River Restoration Project.

Discuss significance of Mendota Pool, flood management, challenges related to river and fishery restoration and groundwater pumping issues.

*Chris White, General Manager, Central California Irrigation District*

Private land ownership, Phase 1 project for Mendota Pool bypass.

*Randy Houk, General Manager, Columbia Canal Company*

**3:45 p.m. DEPART** for tour of Westlands Water District

Discuss west side agricultural water supply, drainage and reclamation issues, efficient irrigation system improvements, groundwater and subsidence, on-farm water management. Salt and selenium management. Land acquisition, fallowing, and management program

*Orvi McKinnis, Resources Analyst, Westlands Water District District (invited)*

*Gayle Holman, Public Affairs Representative, Westlands Water District*

**4:30 p.m. ARRIVE** at Errotabere Ranches

Agricultural Practices at work; buried drip irrigation.

*Dan Errotabere, Owner, Errotabere Ranches, at Highway 269 and Oakland Avenues in Huron District*

**5:15 p.m. DEPART** for Harris Ranch

**5:45 p.m. ARRIVE** Harris Ranch, Coalinga – **DINNER & LODGING**

**6:45 p.m. RECEPTION** South Ballroom, Harris Ranch

**7:15 p.m. DINNER**

CVP project, long-term water supply and proposed solutions

*Jason Peltier, Chief Deputy General Manager, Westlands Water District*

## **DAY 2: Thursday, April 18, 2013 – Coalinga to Visalia**

East side agriculture, irrigation practices, local water supply and flood control. More on salinity and selenium, water supply and water rights, groundwater quality, conjunctive use, water marketing, water banking.

**6:45 a.m. BREAKFAST at Harris Ranch**, North Ballroom

**7:30 a.m. DEPART** for Tulare Lake Basin

**En Route:** Brief history of Tulare Lake Development

*Carl Hauge, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, California Department of Water Resources*

A general explanation of TLDD's evaporation basin operations and research efforts. TLDD as part of the long-term solution to farming in saline soils.

*Gary Rose, Manager, Tulare Lake Drainage District*

**8:30 a.m. ARRIVE** Tulare Lake Basin: TLDD Northern Complex

Wildlife impacts and mitigation measures. Selenium and changing standards.

*Gary Rose, Manager, Tulare Lake Drainage District*

*Rob Hansen, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners President, College of the Sequoias Biology Instructor*

**9:00 a.m. DEPART** for drive through Alpaugh and on to Bakersfield

**En Route:**

Operational aspects of water delivery, cropping patterns, Tulare Lake Bottom flood storage facilities and summer water releases from the flood storage areas to use for irrigation.

*Jimmy George, Watermaster, J.G. Boswell Company*

*Rob Hansen, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners President, College of the Sequoias Biology Instructor*

Discuss valley-wide groundwater issues, arsenic in drinking water, arsenic water quality standard.

**10:00 a.m. ARRIVE** Semitropic Water Storage District

Presentation to discuss conjunctive use program and partners, groundwater management, water marketing in Semitropic WSD.

*Will Boschman, General Manager (Retired), Semitropic Water Storage District*

**10:45 a.m. DEPART** for Cross Valley Canal

**11:30 a.m. ARRIVE** Cross Valley Canal – Brimhall Road and Coffee Road

**On site:** The expansion of the Cross Valley Canal, the connection to the Friant-Kern Canal and the increased flexibility of water supplies for the southern San Joaquin Valley. Expanding the capacity of the Cross Valley Canal and connection to the Friant-Kern Canal.

*Trent Taylor, Water Resources Planner, KCWA*

**12:00 p.m. En route:** Pioneer and Berrenda Mesa Recovery & Recharge Facilities,

City of Bakersfield 2800 Spreading Grounds

Current recovery operations; overview of recharge activities

*Trent Taylor, Water Resources Planner, KCWA*

**12:30 p.m. ARRIVE** and have **LUNCH at Kern Water Bank**

**1:15 p.m.** Kern Water Bank: Travel to Aqueduct and return to Kern Water Bank pump station.

*Jon Parker, General Manager, Kern Water Bank Authority*

*Ken Bonesteel, Facility Manager, Kern Water Bank Authority (invited)*

**2:00 p.m. DEPART** for Kaweah Delta Water District and Terminus Dam

Kaweah and St. Johns Rivers. Urban and agricultural water supply and flood control.

*Mark Larsen, General Manager, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District*

**3:30 p.m. ARRIVE** Terminus Spillway at Lake Kaweah

Lake Kaweah enlargement project. Fuse gates and flood control.

*Mark Larsen, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District*

**4:30 p.m. DEPART** for Holiday Inn

**5:00 p.m. ARRIVE** Holiday Inn, 9000 W. Airport Dr. Visalia, 93277 (559) 651-5000

**6:00 p.m. DEPART** for dinner at Country M Ranch

**6:30 p.m. DINNER** at Country M Ranch, 3103 East Oakdale, Tulare (559) 688-2276

*Mark Larsen, General Manager, Kaweah Delta WCD*

*Don Mills, Board President, Kaweah Delta WCD*

**8:00 p.m. DEPART** for Holiday Inn Hotel 9000 W Airport Dr. Visalia 93277  
(559) 651-5000

### **DAY 3: Friday, April 19, 2013 – Visalia to Sacramento**

Water quality and ag waivers; east side agriculture and federal CVP operations, San Joaquin River, fish habitat restoration, groundwater quality, the dairy industry.

**7:00 a.m. BREAKFAST**, Holiday Inn Hotel lobby

Resource management within the Kings River watershed.

**7:15 a.m. *David Orth, General Manager, Kings River Conservation District***

**8:15 a.m. DEPART** for Orange Cove

**Route:** North through Monson (one of the Environmental Justice target communities with nitrate problems), and north to the Orange Cove

Discuss water quality issues – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program; groundwater quality; rural drinking water challenges.

*David Orth, General Manager, Kings River Conservation District*

Groundwater contamination, local water governance, affordability of drinking water, strategies for improving quality and affordability of drinking water

*Maria Herrera, Attorney at Law, Community Water Center*

East Side agriculture and water development.

*Randy McFarland, Friant Water Authority, Kings River Water Association and Kings River Conservation District*



**9:00 a.m.        ARRIVE** Orange Cove

Citrus ranching. View Orange Cove Irrigation District's new, state-of-the-art water distribution system and Friant-Kern Canal. Local concerns on San Joaquin River decision.

*Fergus Morrissey, General Manager, Orange Cove Irrigation District*

*Harvey Bailey, Chairman, OCID and Friant Water Authority*

**9:30 a.m.        DEPART** for Kings River, Pine Flat Dam and Friant Dam

**En Route:**

Groundwater Management in the Kings River service area.

*David Orth, General Manager, Kings River Conservation District*

**9:45 a.m.        Pick up speaker**

**En Route:** Discuss Kings River Fisheries Management Program, urban water impacts and issues in Fresno area. Groundwater recharge issues in Fresno. Ag and urban groundwater discussion.

*Steve Haugen, Watermaster, Kings River Water Association*

**10:00 a.m.        ARRIVE at** Pine Flat Dam

The history, development and construction of Pine Flat Dam.

*Randy McFarland, Friant Water Authority, Kings River Water Association and Kings River Conservation District*

The Fisheries Management Program and the nearby incubator facility that was recently added. Kings River operations by the KRWA and flood management by the Corps of Engineers.

*Steve Haugen, Watermaster, Kings River Water Association*

**10:45 a.m. DEPART** for Friant Dam. **View video:** “Restoring A River: Voices of the San Joaquin”

Introduction to Friant Dam.

*Randy McFarland, Friant Water Authority, Kings River Water Association and Kings River Conservation District*

**12:00 p.m. ARRIVE** for **LUNCH** at Friant Dam

Discuss Friant operations, increased storage and improved infrastructure. Possible construction of new dam at Temperance above Friant. San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.

*Douglas DeFlicht, Supervisory Hydrologist, South Central California Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region*

*Ron Jacobsma, General Manager, Friant Water Authority*

**1:30 p.m. DEPART** for Sand Slough Diversion Structure

**En Route:** San Joaquin River Restoration Program: Restoration sites, flows, flood concerns and timetable

*Alicia Forsythe, Program Manager, San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Bureau of Reclamation*

*Dave Koehler, Coordinator, San Joaquin River Partnership*

**2:45 p.m. ARRIVE** Sand Slough Diversion Structure, San Joaquin River

Restoration of San Joaquin River at reaches #3 and 4.

*Chase Hurley, General Manager, San Luis Canal Company/Henry Miller Reclamation*

*Alicia Forsythe, Program Manager, San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Bureau of Reclamation*

*Randy McFarland, Friant Water Authority, Kings River Water Association and Kings River Conservation District*

**3:15 p.m.      DEPART** for Sacramento

**5:45 p.m.      ARRIVE** Sacramento International Airport

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rita", with a light, dotted background.

*Rita Schmidt Sudman*

*Executive Director*

*Water Education Foundation*

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